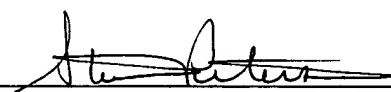


REMARKS

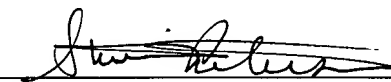
Applicants believe that all the claims now pending in this patent application, as amended and described above, are now allowable and that all other problems raised by the Examiner have been rectified. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider her rejections and to grant an early allowance. If any questions or issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

DATED: June 11, 1999


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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that the foregoing PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE, postage prepaid, EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EM590190216US, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Washington, DC 20231, on this 11th day of June 1999.



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